

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 7 and 13 were amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the inventions of claims 1, 7 and 13. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 7 and 13 can be found in at least Figure 5 and page 7, lines 9-11 of the original specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Withdrawal of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested for at least the reasons set forth below.

Summary of Interview with Examiner

Applicant thanks the Examiner for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview with Applicant's representative on November 19, 2007. During the interview, agreement was reached regarding the previously applied objection to the specification and the § 101 rejection of claims 7-12. Agreement was not reached regarding the patentability of the claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0018671 (Ogasawara).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

1. An embodiment of the present invention

According to an embodiment of the invention, a process is defined by indicating one or more of the semantic terms in order to represent a goal of the process. The goal is achieved by generating chains of the event which terminate at the tuples corresponding to each semantic term. All of the chains of events must terminate in order to achieve the goal. The chain of events is generated by connecting the tuples with keys in order to represent the sequential events enabled by the cooperating entities (Figure 5). Each event is enabled by implementing one or more processes with the goal of producing one or more objects, each associated with the tuple

matching the template representing the condition present at the time of the event. The process used to produce the objects is called "ground". Each ground implements one or more chains of events starting with the input tuple corresponding to the present condition and ending with one or more output tuples each representing the object produced under that condition. (Figure 5). The events enabled by the ground according to the invention can nest chains of events enabled by their respective grounds. Such nesting of grounds can continue for as long as necessary to reach a process implemented by a single entity independently (without cooperation), which is called an "atomic process." See Figure 5 and page 7, lines 6-19 of the original specification.

2. Patentability of independent claims 1, 7 and 13 over Ogasawara

Claim 1 now reads, in part (underlining for emphasis only):

(c) connecting the tuples with keys to represent sequential events of the one or more processes.

Claim 7 now reads, in part (underlining for emphasis only):

(c) means for connecting the tuples with keys to represent sequential events of the one or more processes.

Claim 13 now reads, in part (underlining for emphasis only):

(c) connecting the tuples with keys to represent sequential events of the one or more processes.

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner states that Ogasawara in paragraph [0076], lines 1-2, discloses connecting the tuples to represent sequential events of the one or more processes.¹ In paragraph [0076], lines 1-2, Ogasawara states:

The client of the workplace 10 designates the merchandise to be purchased and the number of pieces of the merchandise from the merchandise order menu, using a

¹ The Examiner was addressing pre-amended claim language and applied the same rationale to the rejection of claims 1, 7 and 13.

personal computer 11, and creates the shopping list in step S14.

As stated in the November 19, 2007 interview summary (attached to the outstanding Office Action), the Examiner has analogized the designation of merchandise from the merchandise order menu and placed on the shopping list to connecting the tuples to represent sequential events of the one or more processes. Applicant traverses the Examiner's interpretation of Ogasawara. The merchandise selected to be purchased and placed on the shopping list are merely a product of certain events. The merchandise selected for purchase and placed on the shopping list do not represent any sequential events of one or more processes.

Further, even if the merchandise designated from an order menu for purchase and placed on the shopping list is analogous to connecting the tuples to represent sequential events of the one or more processes, Ogasawara does not disclose or suggest that the merchandise selected to be purchased and placed on the shopping list is connected with keys. Therefore, Ogasawara does not disclose or suggest connecting the tuples with keys to represent sequential events of the one or more processes.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the § 102(b) of claims 1, 7 and 13.

3. Patentability of the dependent claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-18 over Ogasawara

The dependent claims are believed to be patentable over Ogasawara for at least the reason that the dependent claims depend from patentable base claims and recite further patentable elements and steps. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the § 102(b) rejections of claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-18.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections were fully addressed, the instant application is in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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